

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner
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ELIM SUBDISTRICT COMMERCIAL SALMON OPENING

Norton Sound Subdistrict 3, the Elim Subdistrict, will reopen to commercial salmon fishing for one 48-hour period from 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 14 to 6:00 p.m. Thursday, August 16. Permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of gillnets and mesh size is restricted to 6 inches or less.

Catches from the recent 24-hour opening in Elim Subdistrict were 340 silvers by 15 permit holders. The catch per unit of effort index of 1 index point was half the long-term average of 2 index points. While a record low 600 silvers has been counted at the Kwiniuk River tower, normal run-timing models also result in a projected escapement of 1,821 silvers which indicates that the aerial survey SEG range of 650-1,300 silvers will be achieved. Over 2,900 silvers were counted at the neighboring Tubutulik River from the mouth to Clear Creek, which was high for a partial survey conducted this early in the season. Combined silver salmon abundance from both systems is sufficient to reach escapement goals and provide for inriver subsistence harvests of silver salmon.

This opening will provide limited commercial harvest opportunity. A southerly storm with 30-knot winds is expected to begin Wednesday evening in Norton Sound and the buyer may suspend buying operations early for safety and quality reasons. Permit holders should be in close contact with the buyer to ensure there is a market for their catch. Commercial catch and escapement information will be evaluated before allowing additional commercial opportunity.

Good Luck and Good Fishing.